

February 2, 1976

Bl3a/lgl

The Honorable Ray Madden
Chairman
House Rules Committee
2409 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in further reference to our recent conversation regarding consideration of H. Res. 204.

On February 19, it will have been one year since I introduced H. Res. 204, a House simple resolution which, if passed by the House, would establish in this body a select committee for the purpose of studying the circumstances surrounding the deaths of President John F. Kennedy, U.S. Senator Robert F. Kennedy, and Dr. Martin Luther King, and the attempted assassination of Governor George C. Wallace.

Since February 19, 1975, when I authored and introduced this proposal alone, much has happened to give validity to such a congressional investigation. As a result, there are now 54 co-sponsors of my proposal. I am enclosing a copy of a speech which list the names of 53 of these co-sponsors. The 54th co-sponsor is our colleague, Max Baucus of Montana.

Support of the proposal came from Governor Wallace several months ago, and because of recent revelations about FBI harrassment of Dr. King, just prior to his death, Mrs. King and others have asked for an investigation of his death.

As I have said from the beginning of my effort to get such a congressional investigation underway of political assassinations, the purpose of my proposal is not simply to find out who else, if anyone, was involved in these murders of national leaders. The purpose is much greater than simply that.

Mr. Ray Madden
Page Two

February 2, 1976

While I do not yet espouse any particular theory as to who else, except the accused or convicted assassins, was involved or connected with all of these deaths and the attempt on Wallace, I do see a very significant way in which these terrible incidents are linked. They are linked by the fact that each of these incidents eliminated entirely, or gravely crippled, a leader of national significance. In the case of President John F. Kennedy, Senator Robert F. Kennedy, and Governor Wallace, the deaths and the crippling of Wallace denied to the American people options which they must have in the maintaining of a free electoral system.

While Dr. King was not serving in an elective office, he was a political leader of national significance not only among civil rights activists, but increasingly among peace and labor groups.

We can ill afford, if we wish to preserve our present form of government, to allow a similar series of events from happening again. The series of events I am advocating that we study has greatly harmed the collective national psyche, and it is up to us, the elected representatives of the people, to assess this damage and to obtain answers to many questions about these events that have been obscured by various governmental agencies.

I'm sure that you are well aware of the many number of Americans engaged in independent study of the assassinations. These Americans constantly beseech me to continue in my efforts to get the congressional study underway. As a result, my office has become the depository for almost all of the significant articles and books about the assassinations, and of course, some of the less than significant.

Some of the supporters of the investigation have written to me recently of their hope that the investigation will get underway right away because they are concerned that there is great danger in store for the Democratic nominee for President, whoever he turns out to be. I hope very much that these fears do not turn out to have a basis in fact.

Now is the time during the year of our country's 200th birthday, to ascertain why we had a decade of political assassination in our country — a decade unlike any other in the history of our country.

I, therefore, respectfully request that the Committee on Rules schedule consideration of H. Res. 204, and subsequent reintroductions of the proposal, House Resolutions 455, 456, 593, 721, and 873, as quickly as is possible.

With warmest regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Henry B. Gonzalez, M.C.

3 Encls.